

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A coordinate input-detecting apparatus including a touch panel to be touched by a pointer, said coordinate input-detecting apparatus comprising:

a substantially flat two-dimensional coordinate input-detecting area configured to receive insertion of the pointer, said substantially flat two-dimensional coordinate input-detecting area being formed in front of the touch panel and having a prescribed depth;

an optical unit configured to ~~optically detect the pointer inserted into the coordinate input detecting area and to generate a detection signal based on the detection~~ convert a light intensity distribution signal to digital data; and

a controller configured to ~~calculate coordinates designated by the pointer in accordance with the detection signal~~ detect the pointer inserted into the coordinate input-detecting area when the digital data detected by the optical unit exceeds a first threshold value;

~~wherein said optical unit recognizes insertion of the pointer when said detection signal exceeds a first predetermined threshold value, said detection allowing a coordinate calculation operation, and wherein said controller calculates the coordinates based on a detection signal exceeding a second threshold value, said second threshold value being changed in accordance with a distance between the pointer and the optical unit,~~

~~and wherein a lowest level of said second threshold value enables detection of the pointer at a farthest point from the optical unit~~ wherein said controller calculates a distance between the optical unit and the pointer from the digital data, and sets a second threshold value higher than that of the first threshold in accordance with the distance calculated, and

wherein said controller calculates coordinates from the digital data when the digital data exceeds the second threshold value.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the ~~detection signal~~ digital data exceeds the second threshold value when the pointer almost contacts the touch panel.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said second threshold unit is determined in accordance with a distance between a point designated by the pointer and the optical unit.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 22, wherein said second threshold unit is determined in accordance with a distance between a point designated by the pointer and the optical unit.

Claims 25-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the optical unit includes at least first and second optical devices each having a light source and a light acceptance unit, wherein said second threshold value is set and used in comparing with detection signals generated by the first and second optical units.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the optical unit includes at least first and second optical devices each having a

light source and a light acceptance unit, wherein said second threshold value is set and used in comparing with detection signals generated by the first and second optical units.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 23, wherein the optical unit includes at least first and second optical devices each having a light source and a light acceptance unit, wherein said second threshold value is set and used in comparing with detection signals generated by the first and second optical units.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the optical unit includes at least first and second optical devices each having a light source and a light acceptance unit, wherein said second threshold value is set and used in comparing with detection signals generated by the first and second optical units.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said optical units include reflection mirrors each disposed on prescribed sides of the coordinate input-detecting area, said reflection mirrors having surfaces whose every portions return a light beam to the light source, said optical units being disposed at corners on the coordinate input detecting area, respectively.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 28, wherein said optical units include reflection mirrors each disposed on prescribed sides of the coordinate input-detecting area, said reflection mirrors having surfaces whose every portions return a light beam to the light source, said optical units being disposed at corners on the coordinate input detecting area, respectively.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 29, wherein said optical units include reflection mirrors each disposed on prescribed sides of the coordinate input-detecting area, said reflection mirrors having surfaces whose every portions return a light beam to the light source, said optical units being disposed at corners on the coordinate input detecting area, respectively.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 30, wherein said optical units include reflection mirrors each disposed on prescribed sides of the coordinate input-detecting area, said reflection mirrors having surfaces whose every portions return a light beam to the light source, said optical units being disposed at corners on the coordinate input detecting area, respectively.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 31, wherein said optical units further includes a probe light generating device configured to generate and swing and irradiate probe lights toward the reflection mirrors.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 32, wherein said optical units further includes a probe light generating device configured to generate and swing and irradiate probe lights toward the reflection mirrors.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 33, wherein said optical units further includes a probe light generating device configured to generate and swing and irradiate probe lights toward the reflection mirrors.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 34, wherein said optical units further includes a probe light generating device configured to generate and swing and irradiate probe lights toward the reflection mirrors.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The coordinate input detecting apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said second threshold is decreased as a distance between the pointer and the optical unit is increased.